

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAKAR 03651 161444Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 161201Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4123
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAKAR 3651

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, SG
SUBJECT: ARAB-ISRAEL: SHIMON PERES VISITS SENEGAL

REF: (A) DAKAR 3315 (NOTAL), (B) DAKAR 0643 (NOTAL)

1. WHEN I CALLED ON PRESIDENT SENGHOR MAY 13 TO DISCUSS HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID HE WANTED TO FILL ME IN ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELI LABOR PARTY LEADER SHIMON PERES WHO WAS IN TOWN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.

2. AS INDICATED REFTELS, SENGHOR CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT HE HAS PERSUADED PERES TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A PALESTINIAN FEDERATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A PALESTINIAN STATE AND ISRAEL. DURING OUR MAY 13 TALK, SENGHOR SAID THAT THE IDEA OF HAVING A PALESTINIAN STATE FEDERATED WITH JORDAN HAD BEEN REJECTED. IN SENGHOR'S WORDS, "A JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN FEDERATION WOULD ONLY ISOLATE ISRAEL EVEN MORE. ISRAEL'S DESTINY IS TO BE A MIDDLE EASTERN STATE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE REGION, AND NOT A SEPARATE WESTERN STATE. THEREFORE, PERES AND I FEEL THAT A PALESTINIAN STATE

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SHOULD BE IN A FEDERAL RELATIONSHIP TO ISRAEL."

3. SENGHOR SAID THAT THE NEXT STEP AFTER HE AND PERES CAN AGREE ON THE DETAILS OF A FEDERATION FORMULA IS TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN PERES AND ISSAM SARTAWI, A LEADER OF ONE OF THE PLO'S MODERATE FACTIONS. SARTAWI IS A REGULAR VISITOR TO DAKAR, AND SENGHOR CLAIMS THAT

SARTAWI HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH PERES. SENGHOR SAID THAT THE MEETING WILL BE SECRET AND WILL TAKE PLACE IN MOROCCO. IN A PREVIOUS MEETING WITH THE EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (REFTEL A), SENGHOR SAID THAT THE MEETING PLACE WOULD BE IN DAKAR, CAIRO OR MOROCCO. SINCE THEN, AN AGREEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED ON MOROCCO.

4. COMMENT: WE DON'T KNOW, OF COURSE, HOW SHIMON PERES IS REACTING TO ALL OF THIS, AND TO WHAT EXTENT HE IS JUST PLAYING SENGHOR ALONG IN ORDER TO BE NICE TO AN AFRICAN STATESMAN AND FELLOW SOCIALIST. SENGHOR HAS BEEN PREACHING PALESTINIAN FEDERATION WITH ISRAEL FOR YEARS AND HAS NEVER GOTTEN ANYWHERE. BUT HE CERTAINLY IS PERSISTENT. SINCE I WILL NOT BE SEEING HIM BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES JUNE 2, I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING PAPER INCLUDE THIS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT THE LUNCH ON JUNE 8.
COHEN

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NNN

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